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To: Gwendolyn Massenburg/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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Good Evening Ms. Massenberg

Thank you for getting back to me about this. I'll clarify some things about the e-mail I sent to you. When I became involved with the dump issue, I used many reference sources before coming to the meeting with you and Mr. Hill last year. The primary sites used for background were USGS and EPA web sites. A link from your site pointed to the radiation site. I found it credible. After talking with several dozen different people, they told stories of medical isotopes from Elkhart General Hospital being thrown into the dump. The interesting thing about these stories is that they were almost identical. I found the people I talked to credible. My understanding is that EPA performed a site survey ( radiation ) more than a dozen years ago. I read the report and because it was not written in a way that I can understand, I have no way to judge credibility. In the meeting that you and Mr. Hill ran last year a man in the back of the room stood up and told of his adventure while trespassing on the dump. His Radio Shack Geiger counter "went nuts" as he walked over the surface of the dump. When your scientist questioned "...was it Gamma..." he honestly had no idea. I find his story to be credible.

Unlike your organization, we are a very small community. In the year that you did your radiation survey, the local news top stories were the price of soybeans and summer heat. As you well know many municipalities place dump sites where impoverished people without access to recourse are forced to live. The dump on the South Side of Chicago is a perfect example of what I am talking about. In Elkhart County the poorer citizens usually live in trailer parks, or perhaps they buy a 'better' house, but it is near a dump. The sentiment among many residents is that the City of Elkhart, along with the EPA would really rather not be bothered with fixing the (citizens) problems, they -the city- would rather build another industrial park nearby and cover over the dump.

In fairness to you, I would not like to be the one who has to explain to anyone 'The survey we did more than a dozen years ago is good enough'... 'We are giving them bottled water because the water in your pipes isn't safe to drink' or ( and this is my favorite ) 'When your well becomes contaminated, we will switch you to city water'

In my view this should not be a personal issue, but I don't make people feel the way that they do. It's just the opinion of the people who work here, live here and who will die here that unless and until the EPA has a meeting and answers all of the hard questions that everyone has, it looks like you are covering something up.

This isn't about you and it isn't about me, and if you think I'm wrong on any point in this letter tell me. My feelings won't be hurt no matter how you answer. I'm just here to tell you what other people have told me, and some of them don't really want to feel intimidated by big government. And in their mind after the IRS it doesn't get much bigger than EPA.

On the bright side you should know that I have told many people that you (

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